GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:57
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2004
DECLINE IN FEMALE POPULATION
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether latest census figures have shown decline in female population compared to male in the country especially in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details therefor ;

(c) whether the decline in the female population is due to pre-diagnosis and destroying of female foetus and its abortion being carried out despite the enactment of law to prevent such criminal acts; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken for strict enforcement of law thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) As per latest figures of Census 2001, females per 1000 male population (sex ratio) has improved from 927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001 at national level. However, it has shown a decline in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The situation is worse in case of child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years where it has declined both at national level and in these states.

(b) State wise figures of sex ratio and child sex ratio in the age group (0-6) years in Census 2001 as compared to the figures of Census 1991 are given in the Appendix.

(c) & (d) Son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide and male bias in enumeration of population are some of the reasons commonly but forward to explain the consistently low levels of child sex-ratio.

In order to contain the practice of female foeticide, which is one of the main reasons for fall in sex ratio adverse to female population, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 was brought in to operation from 1.1.1996. The said Act has since been amended to make it more stringent. The implementation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, district as well at sub-district levels. The States/UTs have been requested to ensure wide publicity to the provisions of the Act and Rules and to effectively implement the same in letter and spirit.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre- natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars are also organized through Voluntary Organizations at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice.

Recently, the Government of India has launched ; `Save the Girl Child Campaign` with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls.

ANNEXURE

STATE/UT WISE SEX RATIO AND CHILD SEX RATIO DURING 1991 & 2001

India and State/Union Territory#/District	Sex ratio		Child Sex Ratio	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
India	927	933	945	927
Jammu & Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	975	798
Chandigarh	790	777	899	845

Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	L907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhatisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883
Daman & Diu#	969	710	958	926
Dadra & Nagar Haveli#	952	812	1013	979
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep#	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1036	1058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942
Pondicherry#	979	1001	963	967
Andaman & Nicobar Islands#	818	846	973	957

Source: Census 1991 & 2001, O/O Registrar General of India.

Union Territory

Sex Ratio means females per 1000 male population Child Sex Ratio means girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0-6 years.